

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 17714 01 OF 02 191938Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 BIB-01 COME-00 EB-07 SAJ-01 FCC-01 OTPE-00

/076 W

----- 128640

R 191916Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2655

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 17714

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB GW UR UK FR US

SUBJECT: FRG-GDR DISCUSSIONS OF ALLOCATIONS OF TV
CHANNELS IN BERLIN

BEGIN SUMMARY. FRG-GDR DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING ALLOCA-
TION OF TV FREQUENCIES IN BERLIN HAVE LED TO AN
OBJECTION BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV AND AN ATTEMPT
BY THE GDR TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN
EAST BERLIN ON THE MATTER. THE FRENCH HAVE RAISED
QUESTIONS IN THE BONN GROUP IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN
FULLER INFORMATION AS TO WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED. END
SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED SEPTEL, SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV ON
OCTOBER 11 RAISED WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR WORMSER A
QUESTION CONCERNING TV CHANNEL 31 IN BERLIN. ABRASIMOV
STATED THAT IT HAD BEEN IMPROPER FOR THE FRG TO DISCUSS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 17714 01 OF 02 191938Z

THE MATTER WITH THE GDR.

2. OUR INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT COMES ONLY FROM FRENCH BONN GROUP REP (BOISSIEU) AND THE SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT MURKY. IN THE OCTOBER 12 BONN GROUP MEETING, BOISSIEU -- WHO HAS NOT YET BRIEFED THE GERMANS ON THE WORMSER-ABRASIMOV CONVERSATION -- PROVIDED INFORMATION ON A RELATED ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM.

3. BOISSIEU STATED IN THE BONN GROUP MEETING THAT ON OCTOBER 5 OR 6 A SECOND SECRETARY OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY TO THE GDR HAD BEEN ASKED TO CALL AT THE GDR POSTAL MINISTRY. THE EMBOFF WAS HANDED A LETTER STATING THAT "THE GDR HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE UTILIZATION BY FRENCH FORCES IN WEST BERLIN OF TV CHANNEL 31." ON INSTRUCTIONS, THE EMBOFF SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED THE LETTER, AND THE GDR POSTAL OFFICIAL ACCEPTED ITS RETURN WITHOUT COMMENT.

4. BOISSIEU CONTINUED THAT, ON LOOKING INTO THE MATTER, THE FRENCH LEARNED THAT CHANNELS 9 AND 31 HAD BEEN ALLOCATED TO BERLIN AT THE 1961 STOCKHOLM ITU CONFERENCE AND HAD BEEN PROTECTED BY THE FRG, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE ALLIES. THE GDR WAS CONSIDERING ERECTING A NEW TRANSMITTER NEAR BERLIN AND HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN USING CHANNELS 9 AND 31.

5. AT THIS POINT, BOISSIEU CONTINUED, THE STORY BECAME CONFUSED. THE FRENCH HAD BEEN INFORMED IN BERLIN, HE SAID, THAT IN JULY THE GDR HAD WRITTEN THE LANDESPSTDIREKTION (LPD) BERLIN AND INQUIRED UNDER ARTICLE IV OF THE ACT OF THE 1961 STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE AS TO WHETHER THE GDR MIGHT USE CHANNELS 9 AND 31. (ARTICLE IV PROVIDES THAT, BEFORE REALLOCATING FREQUENCIES, STATES PARTIES SHOULD INFORM OTHER PARTIES.). THE LPD HAD INFORMED THE ALLIED KOMMANDATURA OF THIS GDR REQUEST AND ASKED WHETHER THERE WERE ANY ALLIED OBJECTIONS. IN SEPTEMBER THE AK

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 17714 01 OF 02 191938Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 17714 02 OF 02 191944Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 BIB-01 COME-00 EB-07 SAJ-01 FCC-01 OTPE-00

/076 W

----- 128691

R 191916Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2656

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 17714

HAD REPLIED BY LETTER TO THE LPD STATING THAT THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS TO USE BY THE GDR OF CHANNEL 9, BUT THAT CHANNEL 31 WAS RESERVED FOR POSSIBLE USE BY THE FRENCH FORCES.

6. BOISSIEU SAID THAT THE FRENCH HAD HEARD TWO REPORTS AS TO THE NEXT STEP. ONE WAS THAT THE LPD HAD FORWARDED THE AK REPLY DIRECTLY TO THE GDR IN OCTOBER. THE OTHER REPORT WAS THAT THE LPD HAD SENT THE AK REPLY TO THE FRG, WHICH IN TURN HAD INFORMED THE GDR.

7. THE FRG REP (HENZE) STATED THAT HE COULD CONFIRM THE LATTER REPORT. THE REPLY TO THE GDR POSTAL MINISTRY HAD BEEN SENT BY THE FREQUENCY BUREAU OF THE FEDERAL POSTAL MINISTRY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 17714 02 OF 02 191944Z

8. BOISSIEU THEN POSED A QUESTION FOR THE FRG REP: BEFORE JULY, HAD THERE BEEN ANY DISCUSSION OF THIS

SUBJECT WITH THE GDR? HENZE STATED THAT THIS WAS A NEW QUESTION AND THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE ANSWER. HE UNDERTOOK TO INQUIRE.

9. COMMENT. AS REPORTED SEPTTEL, ABRASIMOV SHOWED WORMSER A COPY OF A LETTER PURPORTEDLY SENT BY THE FRG POSTAL MINISTRY TO THE GDR POSTAL MINISTRY LAST APRIL. BOISSIEU'S QUESTION IN THE BONN GROUP WAS AIMED AT SMOKING OUT FROM THE FRG FULLER INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT.

10. WE REPORT THE DISCUSSION IN SOME DETAIL HERE, FIRST, IN ORDER TO SHED MORE LIGHT ON THE ABRASIMOV STATEMENT AND, SECOND, BECAUSE OF ITS INTERRELATIONSHIP WITH TWO OTHER ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE BONN GROUP. ONE HAS TO DO WITH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE LANDESPOSTDIREKTION FOR LAYING OF A COAXIAL CABLE UNDER THE BRANDENBERG GATE, AND THE OTHER DEALING WITH THE FORTHCOMING ITU BROADCAST SATELLITE CONFERENCE. BOTH MATTERS INVOLVE QUESTIONS OF COMPETENCE FOR ALLOCATIONS OF FREQUENCIES IN BERLIN-- A SUBJECT WHICH THE ALLIES HAVE RESERVED FOR THEIR OWN COMPETENCE. ABRASIMOV IS CORRECT IN STATING THAT SUCH MATTERS ARE OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF THE FRG. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THE COAXIAL CABLE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED IN A WAY WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO BE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GDR AND BERLIN. INVOLVED ARE QUESTIONS OF THE AMBIGUITY OF THE STATUS OF THE LANDESPOSTDIREKTION BERLIN, WHICH IN FRG THEORY IS A FEDERAL OFFICE AND IN THE ALLIED VIEW IS A BERLIN OFFICE SUBORDINATED TO THE AK.

11. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED AT THE MOMENT. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER IF AND AS THE SITUATION IS CLARIFIED.
CASH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BERLIN ACCESS, TELEVISION EQUIPMENT, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS, TELEVISION BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN17714
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760392-0577
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761039/aaaabhep.tel
Line Count: 204
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG-GDR DISCUSSIONS OF ALLOCATIONS OF TV CHANNELS IN BERLIN BEGIN SUMMARY. FRG-GDR DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING ALL
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, UR, UK, FR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006